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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method of switching between a previous base station and a new base station in a wireless communications system having a shared downlink data channel that carries downlink data from the wireless communication system to at least one wireless unit, said method comprising the steps of:

 sending signals from the wireless unit to said wireless communications system via an uplink control channel associated with the shared downlink data channel, wherein the signals indicate an identity of said new base station that the wireless unit has selected from which to receive downlink data;

 waiting for an indication from the wireless communication system to switch to said new base station;

 receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until said indication; and

 switching to said new base station in response to said indication to switch to said new base station.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of sending comprises the step of:

 sending signals indicating the identity of said new base station and downlink data rate information on said uplink control channel to said previous base station.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of:

 receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until an indication from said previous base station that data for said wireless unit from said previous base station has been sent.

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5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said step of receiving comprises the step of:

receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until receiving a notification from said previous base station that data is being forwarded to said new base station.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of sending comprises the step of sending base station identification information on the uplink control channel associated with the shared downlink data channel carrying said downlink data to said wireless unit.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 7 wherein said step of sending comprises the step of sending said base station identification information and downlink data rate information on said uplink control channel.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the signals sent via the uplink control channel identifying the new base station comprise a Walsh code, and wherein the sending step comprises spreading the signals in the uplink control channel such that only the new base station receives the signals from the wireless unit.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indication comprises an indication message that is sent to the previous base station indicating that data packets are ready to be sent to the new base station.

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the indication message is an end of data signal indicating that the ~~receiving step~~ wireless unit has received all data from the previous base station.

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12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the indication is conducted repeatedly until the switching step is conducted.

13. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of sending comprises broadcasting said signals via said uplink control channel, which is a broadcast channel capable of being received by a plurality of base stations.

14. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the wireless unit notifies the previous base station regarding the switching to the new base station via the broadcast channel.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the wireless unit notifies the new base station regarding the switching to the new base station via the broadcast channel.

16. (New) A method of switching between a previous base station and a new base station in a wireless communications system having a shared downlink data channel that carries downlink data from the wireless communications system to at least one wireless unit, comprising the steps of:

receiving signals from the wireless unit, wherein the signals indicate the identity of said new base station that the wireless unit has selected from which to receive downlink data;

sending downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel after receiving the signals from the wireless unit; and

waiting until after at least one of sending all downlink data from said previous base station is complete or directing downlink data for the wireless unit to said new base station before sending an indication to the wireless unit to switch to said new base station.

17. (New) The method of claim 16, comprising sending at least one of an indication from said previous base station that sending the data for said wireless unit from said previous base station is complete or an indication from said previous base station that data is being directed to said new base station.

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18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the new base station receives the signals from the wireless unit.

19. (New) A method of switching between a previous base station and a new base station in a wireless communications system having a shared downlink data channel that carries downlink data from the wireless communications system to at least one wireless unit, comprising the steps of:

(A) sending signals to said wireless communications system, wherein the signals indicate the identity of said new base station that the wireless unit has selected from which to receive downlink data;

(B) waiting for an indication from the wireless communications system to switch to said new base station;

(C) receiving downlink data from said previous base station via the shared downlink data channel until the wireless communications system completes at least one of sending all downlink data to the wireless unit from said previous base station or directing downlink data for the wireless unit to said new base station; and

(D) switching to said new base station in response to receiving said indication to switch to said new base station after step (C) is complete.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, comprising receiving at least one of an indication from said previous base station that all the downlink data from said previous base station has been sent or an indication from said previous base station that the data for the wireless unit is being directed to said new base station.

21. (New) The method of claim 19, comprising sending the signals that indicate the identity of the new base station to the new base station.

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22. (New) The method of claim 19, comprising broadcasting said signals that indicate the identity of the new base station via an uplink control channel, which is a broadcast channel capable of being received by a plurality of base stations, for notifying at least one of the previous base station or the new base station regarding the switching to the new base station.